

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 /071 W

----- 038665

R 191647Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6329

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: GREEK ELECTIONS - PUBLIC REACTION

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED EDITORIAL COMMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF NEW DEMOCRACY LANDSLIDE VICTORY.

LATEST TABULATION OF RESULTS INDICATES ND MAY OBTAIN

221 DEPUTY POSITIONS, CU/NF 59, PASOK 12, AND UNITED

LEFT 8. PM CARAMANLIS IN PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 18

ANNOUNCED NEW DEMOCRACY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED

IN NEXT THREE OR FOUR DAYS AND REMARKED THAT CRUCIAL

PROBLEMS SUCH AS CYPRUS TRAGEDY COULD BE OVERCOME WITH NONPARTISAN COLLABORATION. VOTING ANALYSIS INDICATES

ND WAS STRONGEST IN EASTERN PELOPONNESUS AND WEAKEST IN CRETE WHERE CU/NF AND PASOK MADE BEST SHOWING.

END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO CONCENTRATE ON LARGE-SCALE SWING OF VOTERS FOR NEW DEMOCRACY. ELENI VLACHOU WRITING IN KATHIMERINI ATTRIBUTED ND SUCCESS TO PERSONAL APPEAL OF CARAMANLIS WHOM GREEKS YEARNED TO SEE RETURN TO GREECE DURING DICTATORSHIP AND TO SLOGAN "CARAMANLIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR THE TANKS" WHICH REMINDED VOTERS OF UNACCEPTABLE

ALTERNATIVES. "THE NATION HAS BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST DISEASE OF TANKS AND IS NOW IMMUNE." VLACHOU CONTINUED THAT CARAMANLIS' ADVERSARIES, PARTICULARLY PAPANDREOU, DID NOT UNDERSTAND PUBLIC FEAR OF INSTABILITY WHICH PROPELLED VOTERS TO ND. KATHIMERINI EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH COMMENT THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO CARAMANLIS ASSISTED PM. OTHER KATHIMERINI EDITORIALS POINTED OUT THAT INCLUSION ON ND SLATES OF GREEKS ACTIVE IN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT PROVED TO BE INVALUABLE POLITICAL CAPITAL. (OVER FIFTY DEPUTIES HAVE RECORDS OF PERSECUTION DURING JUNTA YEARS AND ABOUT TEN AS ACTIVE RESISTANCE LEADERS.)

3. COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS IN EDITORIAL CAPTIONED "THE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE" WROTE THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO ATHENS WAS NO MERE COINCIDENCE AND ASSERTED HIS MEETING WITH PM WAS ONE OF USUAL PRE-ELECTORAL FEATURES OF "AMERICAN TYPE" PLAYED OUT FOR GREEK ELECTORATE. SAME PAPER SAID THAT PASOK SPLIT "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" BY REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THE LEFT AND TOOK VOTES FROM EA BY USING UNREASONABLE AND "SUPER-REVOLUTIONARY" SLOGANS, WHILE AT SAME TIME PASOK SCARED CONSERVATIVE ELECTORATE WHO GAVE THEIR VOTE TO RIGHT. AVGHI (COMMUNIST) ADMITTED LEFT "SHOWED CERTAIN WEAKENING WHICH SADDENS ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE IN GREECE." "WEAKENING" WAS RESULT OF DELAY IN PURGING STATE MACHINERY, ELECTORAL SYSTEM, HASTY ELECTIONS, DEMAGOGIC SLOGANS FROM "CERTAIN CAMP"; AND ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER WEAKNESSES OF LEFT. ELLENIKON MELLON (PRO-MONARCHY) WROTE THAT "KING CONSTANTINE MUST RETURN TO HIS THRONE" AS "PREREQUISITE FOR FULL ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLE." MEANWHILE ELEFTHEROS COSMOS (FORMERLY PRO-JUNTA) ASSESSED RESULTS AS INDICATION GREEK PUBLIC REJECTED OLD POLITICAL PARTIES, AS WELL AS CAMPAIGN BEHAVIOR OF CU/NF AND PASOK WHICH REVEALED COUNTRY WOULD BE LED AGAIN TO IMPASSE. FINALLY AKROPOLIS (CENTER, PRO-CARAMANLIS) EXPLAINED RESULTS AS INDICATION ELECTORATE CONDEMNED SOCIALIST/DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENTS OF PASOK AND LEFT, REJECTED SLOGANS ON NATO AND FOREIGN CAPITAL, PURGING, ETC., AND FAVORED STRONG PERSONALITIES WHO REPRESENTED MODERATION AND PRUDENCE. AKROPOLIS CONCLUDED THAT PASOK ATTRACTED DISSATISFIED COMMUNISTS
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AND LEFTIST ELEMENTS OF FORMER CENTER UNION, AND CU/NF FAILED TO BENEFIT FROM NEW FORCES, SOME OF WHOM WERE VOCIFEROUS CAMPAIGNERS BUT FAILED TO IMPRESS GREEK VOTERS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /072 W
----- 030916

R 191647Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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4. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RELEASED "FINAL" ELECTION RESULTS EXCEPT FOR 58 POLLING STATIONS: ND - 2,631,531 VOTES, 54.51 PERCENT, 221 PROBABLE DEPUTIES; CU/NF - 984,584, 20.4 PERCENT, 59 DEPUTIES; PASOK - 656,466, 13.6 PERCENT, 12 DEPUTIES; AND UNITED LEFT 448,362, 9.29 PERCENT, 8 DEPUTIES. LIST OF DEPUTIES ELECTED IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AFTER FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES IS CALCULATED. SEVERAL SEATS REMAIN UNDECIDED INCLUDING SLIGHT POSSIBILITY OF MELINA MERCOURI RECEIVING PASOK SEAT FROM PIRAEUS. OF 36 WOMEN CONTESTING DEPUTY SEATS ONLY FIVE EMERGED SUCCESSFUL: ANNA SINODINOU, ND, POPULAR GREEK TRAGEDIAN, VIEGINIA TSOUDEROU, CU/NF, WHO WAS ACTIVE IN RESISTANCE, LINA KOUTIFARI, ND, ATHENS UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, MINA GHIANINOU, (KKE EXTERIOR), TARSI BOUGHAS, ND AND KATHIMERINI PUBLISHER ELENI VLACHOU WHO ALSO WILL SERVE IN PARLIAMENT AS ONE OF ND'S NINE DEPUTIES-AT-LARGE. COMPARISONS OF PARTY SHOWINGS BY REGION INDICATE ND'S GREATEST STRENGTH WAS IN LACONIA (76.04 PERCENT), FLORINA (70.63 PERCENT), ATTIC EXCLUDING ATHENS (62.8 PERCENT) AND NINE OTHER ELECTORAL DISTRICTS WHERE ND SCORED ABOVE 60 PERCENT, INCLUDING CARAMANLIS' HOME AREA OF SERRES. ND POLLED LOWEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRETE -- HERAKLION (26.25 PERCENT) AND CHANIA (15.26 PERCENT). CU/NF RECEIVED ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE IN ATHENS AND PIRAEUS AND ITS HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN CRETE, STRONGHOLD OF GREEK LIBERALISM. CU/NF DID LEAST WELL IN ATTICA, ARTA, AND LACONIA. PASOK'S STRENGTH WAS ALSO IN CRETE WHERE IT CAPTURD ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF VOTE AND IN PATRAS REGION (24.81 PERCENT) WHICH PAPANDREOUS HAVE TRADITIONALLY USED AS POLITICAL BASE. PASOK MADE POOREST SHOWING IN IONIAN ISLANDS AND NORTHWEST GREECE. UNITED LEFT STRENGTH, CONFORMING TO TRADITION, WAS CENTERED IN PIRAEUS B REGION, OVER 23 PERCENT, ISLANDS OF LEVKAS (27.14 PERCENT), AND LESBOS (24.55 PERCENT) WHICH SINCE WORLD WAR II HAS POLITICAL FAME OF THE "RED ISLAND". IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT EIGHT UNITED LEFT DEPUTIES ARE DIVIDED, TWO FROM KKE-INTERIOR, ONE FROM EDA (ILIAS ILIOU) AND FIVE FROM KKE-EXTERIOR. STRONGEST ANTI-COMMUNIST REGIONS TURNED OUT TO BE PELOPONNESOS, THRACE DISTRICTS AND CYCLADES ISLANDS. ABSTENTION RATE OF SLIGHTLY OVER 21 PERCENT WAS HIGHER THAN USUAL, 18 PERCENT WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HIGH NUMBER OF VOTERS OVERSEAS, OUTDATED ROLLS, AND NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO LIVE OVER 200 KILOMETERS FROM HOME CONSTITUENCY AND ARE THUS EXEMPT FROM COMPULSORY VOTING REQUIREMENT.

5. PM CARAMANLIS HELD FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE RECORD-BREAKING VICTORY AT POLLS WHEN HE ASSURED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THAT THEY HAD WITNESSED FAIR AND EFFICIENT ELECTIONS WHICH PRODUCED CLEAR ND VICTORY. CARAMANLIS ATNTICIPATED THAT THROUGH SOLIDARITY OF ALL GREEKS IMPORTANT PROBLEMS INCLUDING CYPRUS TRAGEDY COULD BE OVERCOME. IN REPLY TO QUERY ON MONARCHY PM RESTATED HIS POSITION LEAVING DECISION TO GREEK ELECTORATE. HE ANSWERED QUESTION ON GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO BY SAYING THIS DEPENDS ON NATO ITSELF. FIELDING QUERIES ON NEXT STEPS, HE RESPONDED WITH SEEMING PIQUE TO QUERY WHETHER HE INTENDED TO GOVERN FOR FOUR YEARS BY SAYING QUESTION WAS UNDEMOCRATIC SINCE PARLIAMENT IS ELECTED FOR FOUR YEARS. (ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE REPORTED "THE PREMIER SAID THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY GOVERN FOR THE WHOLE FOUR-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE.") PM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED CONSTITUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WITH STRENGTHENED EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY. CARAMANLIS ALSO STATED THAT HE ANTICIPATED NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS. MEANWHILE PRESS SPECULATION ON NEW MINISTERS INCLUDED FORMER MINISTERS FROM

JULY 24 GOVERNMENT PLUS SEVERAL DEPUTIES ELECTED FOR FIRST TIME -- CONSTANTINE STAVROPOULOS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS; GEORGE RALLIS, MINISTER TO PM; EVANGELOS AVEROFF, DEFENSE; P. PAPALIGOURAS COORDINATION; C. STRATOS, INTERIOR; M. STASINOPoulos, JUSTICE, ETC. PRESS ALSO CONJECTURED THAT PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT WOULD BE C. PAPACONSTANTINOU FROM CORINTH. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS08302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741129/aaaaaygw.tel
Line Count: 230
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK ELECTIONS - PUBLIC REACTION
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC DIA WASHDC USCINCEUR THESSALONIKI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005